the approval of the National Land Use and Wastelands Development Council recently which involves a shift in policy, emphasis on decentralisation and increasing people's involvement in the afforestation programme. The key elements of the Action Plan are: decentralised people's nurseries, more of farm forestry and less of block plantations by government department, emphasis on regeneration of scrub forest area, including fodder development through tending and seeding, larger afforestation by the State Forest Development Corporations, captive plantations on wastelands by forest-based industries and strip plantations by the respective departments alongside railways, roads and canals. Industries would also be encouraged to develop fuelwood and fodder plantations on wasteland distant from habitats, with a need to develop fuelwood for community use as well as not to disturb existing community use.

In addition, efforts are being made to reduce fuelwood consumption through more efficient use and by increased utilisation of alternative sources of energy, such as:—

(1) promotion of bio-gas plants.

(2) promotion of solar cookers.

(3) introduction of fuel-efficient chulhas.

(4) development and promotion of fuel-efficient crematoria.

Encroachment on Reserve Forest Land in Kerala and other States

1817. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of encroachment in the reserve forest land in Kerala and other States in the country;

(b) whether Government have framed any scheme or guidelines for the States to evict such persons from the illegal possession of the reserve forest land in the interest of forest development and ecology;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Central Government propose to give financial assistance to the States to rehabilitate such persons after their eviction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Kerala has reported that estimated area under encroachments is 20805 hectares. Total area of forest reserve land under encroachment in other States and Union Territories excluding Sikkim and Mizoram is reported ot be 6.79,827 hectares.

(b) and (c) Guidelines have been issued to all States that an assessment of the extent of such encroachments be made and it be ascertained as to how this can be controlled.

(d) No, Sir.

1818. [Transferred to the 18th March, 1986].

Signal System and Middle Verges on road near Kalkaji Bus Depot

1819. SHRI (MOLANA) ASRARUL HAQ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that near the Kalkaji bus depot crossing and near J.K. Automobiles in A and B block (Road No. 2, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-II) no signal system and middle verges on road have been provided.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the absence of these provisions has led to many fatal accident, if so, the number of accidents in the last one year on these roads; and

(c) what steps have been taken to minimise such accidents in future by provision of middle verges and signal on the road?